



MEETING MINUTES / 20 AUGUST 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Baldwin, Farley, Lardizzone, Lopez, Magner, Seppala **50%**

Excused: Stewart, Bradley, Johnson, McMullen, Newman, Newstadt, Sarg

Unexcused:

Guests: Vince Kane (Wilmington VAMC), Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Jordon Hines (Delaware Housing Opportunity Fund), Jovy Juanillo (Military One Source), Darlene McGill (Delaware National Guard Family Program), Harvey Freville (DelVets), Bob Onorato (DelVets), Joe Rodriquez (DelVets), John Pastor (DelVets), Jerry Garman (DelVets), Roger Lee (DelVets), Maryanne Donaghy (Biden Center), Cleo Jones (Senator Coons Office)

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:

Thanked DelVets for hosting meeting

Moment of silence for service members

MEETING MINUTES:

Unable to vote on minutes due to a lack of a quorum

- Asked members to review the minutes for issues

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director

Had Town Hall last week with about 40 veterans in attendance

- Highlighted virtual care programs
- Can use smartphone or computer to establish care
- Virtual appointments are used to cover no show appointments

Awarded contract for garage project

- Following Labor Day will obtain timeline information from the developer
- Is pre-fabricated, so should be installed within 18 months

Dover clinic projected to be opened the summer of 2020

- Construction to begin late fall

Georgetown clinic continues to grow in population

- Adding staff to accommodate growth
- Potential of satellite clinic to handle increased population

Participating in Veterans Stand Down

Upcoming Veterans and Military Behavioral Health Summit, 10 September

Working with Christiana Health System and Lieutenant Governor's office to address veterans' suicide and behavioral health issues

Looking at veteran community reintegration

- Housing, healthcare, employment

Mission Act is challenging and we are trying to get information out to veteran populations

- If you live more than 30 minutes from mental health or primary care you're eligible for the program
- If you live more than 60 minutes from specialty care you're eligible for the program

Arranging care in Sussex has been difficult due to limited providers

- Difficulty in coordinating medical records between VA and civilian providers

Beginning in September the third party vendor will be Optic who covers all of VISN 4
Outstanding bills from HealthNet still need to be addressed and paid
Virtual care works well for mental health treatment
Urged members to challenge elected officials to address the lack of mental health beds for those in need

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Terry Hollinger, Director:

Not present
VA Survey Team inspection began today
Denise Elliot, Chief Nurse's last day is 30 August
Archie Poling was hired as the new Chief Nurse
Dining Room opening is projected to be 1 November
Blue Suite spa construction is on-going

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present and Chairwoman Showell read their notes

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jordan Hines, Delaware Housing Opportunity Fund
501(c)3 that provides free home repairs focusing on seniors, veterans, and low-economic families
Started by New Castle County's board of realtors and has been in existence for 15 years
Seeking Veterans Service Organizations as sustaining partners, minimum donation \$2K
Partners with contractors to provide repairs
Individuals apply for repairs and if approved, monies go to contractor
(Farley) Are you a statewide organization?
Yes, but our offices are in New Castle and we travel throughout the state, also work with other county board of realtors
(Showell) Is there any data on how many veterans have been helped by the program?
At least 40 veterans have been helped during the 15 years

Jovy Juanillo, Military One Source
Military's 24/7 access to military resources
Veterans' access is limited to digital library
- Apply for an account
- Free resources
Spousal education and career opportunities
Connected with Fortune 500 companies for employment opportunities
Non-medical and financial counseling
(Farley) Are you an independent organization?
No we are part of the Department of Defense

Darlene McGill, Delaware National Guard Family Program
Resource hub for veterans
Focuses on Delaware National Guard members and families during deployments
Refers member to use the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund
Counselors are on staff

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Vacant:

Interments – 73 (+6)

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 27 (-5)

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Presented by Director Kirby

Administrative II position will become available at the Silver Lake location

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Presented by Director Kirby

Will gather information from commissioners and members for 2020 legislative actions

Military pension tax exemption will be resubmitted

HB 213 – Exempting property tax for 100% service connected will be resubmitted after

Representative Jaques discusses with the county tax representative

- Commissioner Baldwin expressed disappointment in the HB not being reviewed in a timely manner (Showell) The commission welcomes inputs from veterans' service organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 9; Granted 9 (100%); Awarded \$9,881.95; Balance - \$157,957.00

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Chapter Information:

An active Facebook page is up and running

Delegates have been selected to attend the International Professional Airmen's Conference in San Antonio (24 – 29 August)

Committees have been formed for:

- POW/MIA week activities (15 – 21 September)

- AFSA Legislative week (6 – 12 October)

Commissioner Information:

31 Jul: Attended Mark Wischmann's funeral

Vacant (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

16 and 20 May: Participated in set up/breakdown and volunteer at moving Vietnam Wall display

30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

14 Jun: Post 2 held Flag Day Ceremony

14 Jun: Attended Millsboro Cemetery's Flag Day Service

14 Jun: Post 2 Auxiliary held clover sale at several Long Neck area businesses

21 – 24 Aug: AmVets National Convention, Louisville, KY

- Scheduled to attend as NEC for Delaware District 2

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

31 Jul – 6 Aug: Attended DAV National Convention, Orlando, FL

10 Aug: Attended Major General Berry's Promotion Ceremony

13 Aug: Attended Delaware Veterans Home Admission meeting

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Chapter 1 does not meet again until September

Chapter 2 continues to fundraise each week

Chapter 1 donated \$20,000.00 to the Veterans Stand Down

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

13 Aug: Hosted, along with Mayor Christiansen, the Mayors Challenge to Prevent Veterans Suicide meeting

- Attendees included Lt. Governor Hall-Long, Virginia Yelland, General (retired) Vavala and other community leaders

- Will follow Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness template

- Will highlight awareness and helpful programs

Has the 2019 Toys for Tots Report, nationally provided 7 million toys

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

19 Jun: Attended Joint Finance Committee meeting, HB 213 tabled until January 2020

20 Jun: Attended Friends of Delaware Veterans meeting

27 Jun: Attended Delaware Veterans Home admissions meeting

1 Jul: Attended Brain Injury Trust Fund and Council meetings

6 Jul: Attended Freedom 5K Run, Walk, Roll

11 Jul: Attended Commissioner Armbruster's interment service

18 Jul: Attended Delaware Joining Forces meeting

23 Jul: Attended Friends of Delaware Veterans Trust Fund meeting

26 Jul: Breakfast meeting with Senator Carper (veteran issues and federal legislative)

5 Aug: Attended Brain Injury Trust Fund and Council meetings

10 Aug: Attended Major General Berry's promotion ceremony

13 Aug: Attended Delaware Veterans Home admissions meeting

16 Aug: Attended Executive Committee meeting

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

10 Aug: Executive Committee meeting

- Agreed to purchase eight grocery chain cards, \$125.00 each

- Both CBOCs will receive four cards to be used during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons

- CBOC Social Workers will determine distribution

Two chapters are on summer break and will return in September

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

Received \$5000.00 check, from Masons, for the trust fund foundation fund

Laurel school district board has agreed to review charter submission for a military school

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Joint Enlisted Banquet on 8 September, new initiative includes Army and Air Force

Providing a C-130 static display at the Dover Air Force Base Air Show (14 – 15 September)

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

22 Jun: Attended Region III MOWW Convention at Delaware Military Museum

13 Jul: Worked at Delaware Military Museum during public meeting and lecture

- Professor Emeritus Tom Reed spoke on Delaware in the Civil War

1 Aug: Attended the Veterans and College Athletes Together presentation at University of Delaware
- Hosted by Dr. Susan Sheehy
13 Aug: Served as Co-Chair to begin planning Salute to Veterans program at personal retirement community
15 Aug: Attended VA Town Hall meeting at Wilmington VAMC
7 – 10 Aug: MOWW conference (100th anniversary) in Simi Valley, CA

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

6 Jul: Attended and participated in Freedom 5K Run
11 Jul: Attended and presented the Legislative Tribute during Commissioner Armbruster's interment
13 Jul: Served as veteran lead and manned DCVA table for Dover Convoy of Hope event
- 1500 community attendees, 175 veterans
14 Aug: Participated in Veterans Portrait Project
3 – 8 Sep: Operation Seas the Day, Warrior Family Beach Week, Bethany Beach
- Entire town sponsors Wounded Warrior Families
11 Sep: Wilmington VA Voluntary Services and Gordon Foods sponsoring 9/11 Patriot Day Luncheon, VA Pavilion 1100 – 1330
14 Sep: DelVets Post 2 Annual Crab Feast, proceeds go towards benevolence and veterans in need of funding
17 Sep: Commissioner Lopez will perform Delmarva for Live interview for Veterans Stand Down information
20 Sep: Commissioner Lopez will lead Veterans Stand Down registration areas
26 Sep: Encouraging veterans to sign up for Veterans Consortium for Military Discharge Upgrades, Wilmington VA TCM Management, 1st Floor
- POC Miguel Marcos (302) 994-2511, ext 4763

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)
Nothing to report

TERM COMPLETION:

EVENTS:

23 Aug / 1000: DCVA Table Display, Noble's Pond Senior Spree, Noble's Pond Clubhouse, Cheswold
10 Sep / 0830 – 1500: Military and Veterans' Mental Health Summit, Dover Downs
14 – 15 Sep: Dover Air Force Base Air Show
20 Sep / 0930 – 1400: Veterans Stand Down, Schutte Park, Dover
28 Sep / 0800 – 1230: Vet Fest, Middletown

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

None

CLOSED SESSION:

None

SPECIAL SESSION:

None

NEXT MEETING:
LOCATION:

Tuesday, 17 September 2019 at 1000
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs